



World Organization of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

World Scout **Bureau** Mondial du Scoutisme

## **Address of Dr. (Mrs.) Marie-Louise Correa**

*Chairman of the World Scout Committee  
Former Minister of the Republic of Senegal*

On the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of the Tunisian Republic  
to the 37<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference

Tuesday, 6 September 2005

Prime Minister  
Ministers  
Secretaries General  
Dear brothers and sisters in Scouting

It is a great honour, Mr Prime Minister, to welcome you this morning, here, at the Medina of Yasmine Hammamet, as we proceed with the work of our World Conference. The Medina is a place full of symbols where the Mediterranean cultures and religions meet. In a distant past the Mediterranean area, with its numerous battles, was already examining what made it special and how to shape the future. For over 50 years, your country, Tunisia, has also been examining what has made it special and how to shape its future. I mention this because recalling history helps us to understand the future.

The Association 'Les Scouts Tunisiens' - like other Scout organizations in the Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia - have lived through the transition from the colonial era to that of the emancipation of the people. It is an exciting time that shaped the identity of Scouting in Tunisia through the building blocks of education for citizenship, community development, and a hunger to build a new society. I, myself, have lived through such a time in Senegal.

I would like you to convey a message to His Excellency President Ben Ali. He was a Scout himself. This means that he knows the very foundations of what Scouting represents, a Movement that he appreciates.

I was the Minister of Scientific Research and Technology when, in Addis Ababa in 1995, he was chairing the Organization of African Unity. He proposed - and encouraged the adoption of - a resolution requesting all of the continent's States to actively support the development, consolidation and expansion of Scouting in Africa. Today, the African Union pursues its work on the basis of that same resolution. And ten years later, this same region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement continues its development work with projects aiming to educate tomorrow's leaders and to respond to the most urgent needs in African society: fighting against AIDS, providing access to education and equal opportunities for women and men.

The African States and the United Nations system offer continuous support and regularly entrust the Scout Movement with tasks that confirm its commitment to society. The support that you offered in 1995 has certainly borne fruit.

And here we are back together in 2005.

The Association 'Les Scouts Tunisiens' have done a remarkable job, both in organizing the hosting as well as in facilitating the programmes of the 37<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference and of the - now ended - 9<sup>th</sup> World Scout Youth Forum. They have worked with a devotion that incarnates Tunisia's spirit of hospitality. They have worked with an efficiency that bears witness to the modernity of this country. My friend, Mohamed Triki, with whom we have served on the World Scout Committee, is someone you know. Scouting is proud of him. With Wahid Labidi, Chairman of the Organising Committee, and all the volunteers, they have been working for six years to create this event.

Mr Prime Minister, we are grateful for the exceptional support that the State's services have offered to the Association 'Les Scouts Tunisiens' so as to help us to ensure the success of this event in Hammamet and El Jem, where we will be tomorrow. Through you, we express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed – at State level, in the ministries and public services – to preparing and helping with the day-to-day running of this Conference.

The theme of this World Conference is "Breaking Down Barriers". Representatives of more than 120 countries are here this morning. In Scouting, they form a vast network of international solidarity that reaches beyond geographic and cultural borders to bring together good-willed women and men united in our common mission of creating a better world.

Scouting is rooted in 100 years of history that it will celebrate in 2007. This said, as it is an educational youth movement, it looks towards its future through the very promise that is its heartbeat.

To close, I bring you, in the name of all the delegations present, a salute and deep appreciation on behalf of the 28 million Scouts around the world.

Thank you.